

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HUMAN SERVICES COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

July 22, 1999
RPTA Conference Room
302 N. First Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Laura Arnold, Councilmember of Tolleson	Frances Osuna, Mayor of Guadalupe
*William Arnold, Mayor of Goodyear	*Ruth Osuna, Arizona Department of Economic Security
*Xavier Brizar, The Community Forum	Rev. Fran Park, Northwest Valley Regional Community Council
Dennis Cahill, Councilmember of Tempe	Robert Pettycrew, Chairman, Councilmember of Scottsdale
Larry Clausen, Area Agency on Aging, Region One	Pat Pomeroy, Councilmember of Mesa
Mike Evans, Councilmember of Gilbert	*Joan Shafer, Mayor of Surprise
Ron Gonshak, Glendale Community Council	Phillip Westbrook, Councilmember of Chandler
Marie Lopez-Rogers, City of Avondale	*Mary Rose Wilcox, Supervisor, Maricopa County
Maureen Mageau-DeCindis, Tempe Community Council	Cody Williams, Councilmember of Phoenix
Manuel Martinez, Councilmember of Glendale	

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Tom Canasi, HSTC Chair, City of Tempe
Terry Goddard, AZ Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Yolanda Gonzalez
Ken Einbinder, HUD
Jerry Hancock, AZ Department of Economic Security
Carol Kratz, MAG
Mary Mantano, Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation (ABC)
Marty Mitchell, HUD
Gloria Munoz, ABC
Suzanne Quigley, MAG
Brenda Robbins, Value Options
Steve Sachs, HUD, Regional Office
Angie Utterback, Governor's Division of Community Outreach
Ted Williams, ABC

1. Call to Order

At 12:15 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Pettycrew.

2. Approval of April 15, 1999 and June 17, 1999 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Arnold requested the typographical error of "Ms. Canasi" be changed to "Mr" on page 7 of the June 17, 1999 Joint meeting minutes. With this change noted, the motion by Councilmember Laura Arnold, seconded by Rev. Fran Park, to approve the April 15, 1999 and June 17, 1999 meeting minutes was carried unanimously.

3. Update on Homeless Issues

Ms. Kratz provided an overview on the Homeless Planning handout which described MAG's role in regional homeless planning over the last fourteen years, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Continuum of Care model, the issues related to housing for homeless people with serious mental illness, and the upcoming funding dilemma facing Maricopa County in regard to housing for the homeless. Ms. Kratz alerted the Committee that many of housing programs which serve persons with serious mental illness will be expiring in June of 2000. The largest portion of the Continuum of Care funds have supported housing for persons with serious mental illness.

In discussing the HUD Continuum of Care application process, Ms. Kratz mentioned that the City of Phoenix has been the lead agency responsible for the development and submittal of a coordinated application over the last four years. During the past two years, the City of Mesa has dedicated substantial staff time to this project and Maricopa County, the Department of Economic Security and MAG have also assisted with the process. Phoenix has determined that they will not be able to devote the time and resources to develop the application for the year 2000, nor do Mesa or Maricopa County wish to assume this responsibility. In view of the Phoenix position to discontinue its coordination role for the Continuum of Care, the local HUD office and the Arizona Department of Commerce have requested that MAG undertake this activity. Ms. Kratz noted that a weakness identified by HUD in the Maricopa County consolidated application is the lack of a year-round homeless planning process that is inclusive of all community stakeholders.

Ms. Kratz summarized the issues for Committee consideration and action: (1) should MAG reconvene its homeless planning process on an annual basis; and (2) respond to the HUD and Department of Commerce request to assume the coordination role of developing the HUD Continuum of Care application.

Councilmember Evans remarked that millions will be needed to sustain the capacity created with the HUD funding. He also commented that MAG is best suited to assume the planning function given its regional nature and past experience with this issue. Mr. Ron Gonshak suggested that because of the intensive staff time to assume these tasks, additional funding would need to be sought. Ms. Kratz agreed that additional staff would be needed.

Councilmember Cody Williams remarked that the City of Phoenix will still lend the expertise of its staff for the monitoring aspects of the grant, and remain as the fiscal agent. He emphasized that like domestic violence, homelessness is a valley-wide problem, and therefore, all the cities need to be a part of the solution. He listed the remedies which have been developed over the past decade: shelters, ability for homeless persons to receive mail via the CASS shelter, clothing banks, and remedial training. In his estimation, these services are only reaching a small portion of the number of homeless people in our region. He remarked that after CASS was built the legislature backed off of this issue.

Councilmember Williams remarked that the MAG Human Services Coordinating Committee has proven effective in providing direction and vision to regional problems. The City of Phoenix cannot lead this endeavor alone. The amount of money needed to solve this problem far exceeds what one city can take on.

Discussion ensued related to the issue of housing for the serious mentally ill and the debate regarding the state's responsibility in addressing the housing needs of this population.

Mr. Terry Goddard, Director of the local HUD office, introduced Mr. Ken Einbinder, Mr. Marty Mitchell of his staff, and Mr. Steve Sachs from the Regional HUD office in San Francisco. He mentioned that they were all here today to discuss the impending housing crisis in Maricopa County. He discussed the gains made in homelessness since the early 1980's; when it was not uncommon for a city to call another city to let them know "one of their homeless showed up on their doorstep."

Mr. Goddard noted that MAG is a "regional consultation body" and because of this role, MAG would be a logical successor to take the lead in developing the HUD Continuum of Care. However, MAG may not be the only solution. Mr. Goddard stated that if this dilemma is not solved with a "regional collaboration," the region could lose a significant amount of federal funds. On the flip side, if a strong regional collaboration can be formed, the region could receive additional funding.

Mr. Sachs mentioned that he was pleased to hear Councilmember Williams describe homelessness as a regional issue, because when states have approached the problem in this fashion they have found more success in both receiving increases in federal funds and decreasing homelessness in their region. He affirmed Mr. Goddard's assessment that when groups have instituted a regional collaborative process, that is year-round, comprehensive, and not only focused on the HUD funding process, they have garnered more dollars from HUD, the private sector, and from local fund sources. Mr. Sachs believes that Maricopa County has the opportunity leverage more dollars for the problem of homelessness, if this approach is taken.

Mr. Sachs described the Alameda County Continuum of Care process as a national model. This region has been able to substantially increase their HUD allocation due to strong leadership and collaboration from local government, the private sector, and non-profit agencies. The collaboration created a common mission and a structure to address homelessness. All the stakeholders participate on a Steering Committee. The roles of the Committee are to develop the HUD application, evaluate the programs, and support a staff person responsible for the overall coordination of the process. He mentioned the need for cities to be more active in the overall planning process, not just involved in the application for federal funds. Cities can also play a role in bringing more players to the table, especially the private sector. HUD can provide technical assistance to help facilitate the process and develop the organizing structure. This assistance could include bringing in people from other jurisdictions who have been successful in this process.

Ms. Maureen Mageau-DeCindis asked how the Alameda process was funded. Mr. Sachs explained that the staff was funded through the City of San Jose and the County. They also hired a consultant to write the HUD application. The region also eventually added their local Community Development Block Grant dollars to the process, as well as foundation funding. The local foundations became very involved and funded a Housing Coordinator in each County.

Mr. Tom Canasi stated that the Coordinating Committee has had two such planning processes which incorporate the exact institutions Mr. Sachs had mentioned. This type of process is not unfamiliar to

MAG. MAG has a long history in leading community planning efforts. Mr. Canasi noted the recently completed domestic violence planning process which involved over 150 individuals from various community institutions.

Councilmember Williams thanked Mr. Sachs for coming so far to share information on the HUD Continuum of Care process and mentioned that he believed MAG was the right place to start when discussing regional collaborative planning. He asked Mr. Sachs for examples of regions that were not only successful in obtaining additional HUD funding, but also in reducing the homeless population. Mr. Sachs responded that the costs to a region are far greater if it does not have a strong Continuum of Care. Mr. Sachs advised the Committee that it would not be efficient or effective to have separate Continuum of Care processes occurring in two different cities. He noted that if this is the approach your region takes, expect to see less funding from HUD.

Councilmember Evans mentioned that MAG Human Services Committees have the experience, expertise and desire to conduct the annual homeless planning function. However, even if additional resources are obtained to conduct the planning component, in the end if the State does not take responsibility for the SMI problem we will be stuck with the same housing crisis that we currently have now. In order to get the State's attention on this SMI issue, Mr. Gonshak suggested bringing all the people served by homeless programs across the state down to the State Legislature.

Mr. Mitchell alerted the Committee that the time frame is short for the next HUD application process. HUD will most likely announce the 1999 awards in December, and issue the next SUPER NOFA in either February or March of 2000. There must be a process in place by this time.

Councilmember Pat Pomeroy asked what position the Human Service Technical Committee had about this issue and MAG's role in the Continuum of Care process. Mr. Canasi, Chairman of the Technical Committee, informed him that the Technical Committee would follow the direction set by the Coordinating Committee. He mentioned that reconvening the homeless planning process would not be a problem, but the question still remains: should MAG act as the lead agency for the Continuum of Care? Mr. Sachs noted that regions are more successful when they closely align the planning and application process

At this point in the meeting, Councilmember Williams made a motion for the MAG Human Services Coordinating Committee to agree to initiate and coordinate the planning process for future Homeless Continuum of Care processes. There was no second at this time and further discussion ensued.

Rev. Fran Park asked what role the County has in the Continuum of Care. Ms. Kratz responded that the County has indicated that they would participate but are not willing to coordinate the process. Ms. Kratz stated that her staff perspective was to be a bit cautious about assuming the lead agency responsibility. She suggested that the question be taken back to the Technical Committee for them to assess the ramifications and overall feasibility of MAG assuming this role.

Councilmember Williams amended his previous motion to state that MAG would (1) agree to reconvene its homeless planning process, and (2) consider the ramifications of being the coordinator of the HUD Continuum of Care process.

Mr. Goddard informed the Committee that he spoke with Supervisor Wilcox last week about the County's role in this process. The County does not wish to act as the coordinator for the application but may be willing to convene the non-profit organizations, the cities, and other stakeholders around this issue. Mr. Goddard and his staff will be speaking with the County manager today regarding this convener role.

Mr. Goddard suggested that Mr. Sachs send MAG staff the Santa Clara Plan to help with the Technical Committee deliberations.

Councilmember Evans suggested if MAG took the lead role, more Mayors and City Managers would come to know the importance of this issue. He stressed the need for speed to avoid seriously mentally ill persons from losing their housing.

Councilmember Cahill supported a coordinated regional approach. He commented that a city-by-city approach would not be helpful. He supported the need for resources to accomplish the task and questioned whether Maricopa County could loan staff to MAG.

There was agreement that the Technical Committee should assess whether MAG should be the lead agency in the Continuum of Care application process. At this point in the meeting, the motion by Councilmember Williams, seconded by Councilmember Mike Evans for MAG to (1) reconvene the homeless planning process and, (2) to consider the ramifications of being the coordinator of the HUD Continuum of Care process, was carried unanimously.

Councilmember Westbrook expressed concern about the time frame for when decision-making about MAG's role in the HUD Continuum of Care process should happen. It was agreed that the Technical Committee would offer a position to the Coordinating Committee at the Joint Meeting in October.

4. SSBG Subcommittee Update

Mr. Canasi informed the Committee that a subcommittee of the Technical Committee focused on the status of the Social Services Block Grant has met with a number of organizations to develop material related to potential impact of funding reductions. Meetings are also being planned with members of our congressional delegation. Mr. Canasi referred to the packet of information on SSBG which will be distributed to providers and elected officials in July and August. He invited the Coordinating Committee members to consider attending any of the meetings that will be scheduled with the delegation, and also asked for suggestions on how to make the SSBG information as usable as possible.

Councilmember Evans volunteered to participate at any of the meetings with the delegation. Councilmember Williams discussed the time frame for informing the delegation and other elected officials about the potential SSBG reductions. He mentioned the National League of Cities meeting is traditionally in March, and the resolutions for Oro Valley meeting for the Arizona League of Cities is in the fall. A document on the homeless issue and one on SSBG should be presented. Councilmember Evans stated that the four east valley cities often work together and suggested having the staff of the four cities prepare a document for the Intergovernmental Liaisons in time for Oro Valley.

A motion by Councilmember Williams, seconded by Councilmember Evans to develop a letter on SSBG signed by members of the Coordinating Committee to be sent to our congressional delegation was carried unanimously.

5. FY 2000-2001 Funding Recommendations

Mr. Canasi reported that the Technical Committee took a look at last years problem statements, service intents and funding recommendations and decided to keep them the same for FY 2000-2001. A request was made from the Technical Committee for more time to be set aside to study the current needs and

trends in services related to each of the four target groups. A subcommittee was formed to design the “study sessions” and to arrange a schedule.

Chairman Pettycrew asked whether the Technical Committee has ever reviewed information that has been generated out of past Arizona Town Halls. Ms. Kratz responded in the affirmative.

A motion by Councilmember Manuel Martinez, seconded by Councilmember Laura Arnold, to approve the FY 2000-2001 funding recommendations was carried unanimously.

6. Domestic Violence Regional Plan

Chairman Pettycrew announced that the final draft of the full domestic violence plan is completed. He asked members to take some time to review it and provide feedback to their staff. MAG’s graphic artist will be working on incorporating children’s artwork and other graphics for the final version. He reported that MAG submitted a grant for STOP funds from the Governor’s Office for Domestic Violence Prevention and are still awaiting communication about an award.

Members were asked to suggest possible funding sources for a staff person to carry forward the domestic violence plan. Councilmember Williams suggested going back to the participants in the planning process for ideas, as well as to private sector groups like the Arizona Republic. He suggested that similar to the Safety Plan Brochure, we should try to get multiple sponsors to support the effort over a three to five year period.

Others groups suggested to approach for support were: TOSCO/Circle K, Arizona Home Builders Association, Arizona Multi-Housing Association, and American Express. Councilmember Williams mentioned that the National Women’s Conference was in town and maybe we should think of approaching groups such as the Women’s Day Magazine and the Women Business Owners Association. Councilmember Williams volunteered to participate in any meetings with these groups and suggested putting a marketing packet together to bring to the meetings.

Councilmember Evans agreed that it would be important to get funding lasting at least three to five years so that meaningful implementation of the recommendations can occur. He suggested involving the Home Builders Association and the Unions. He mentioned that the new building for the Sojourner Center was donated by industrial developers. Councilmember Cahill agreed that domestic violence is a family issue in which home builders should want to become involved in, as least from a public relations standpoint.

Councilmember Pomeroy suggested that Eddie Basha would be a great spokesman to lead the effort. Other suggestions were the CEO’s of Kroger, Target, and Southwest Supermarkets.

7. Special Transportation Study

Ms. Kratz informed the Committee that the Special Transportation Study has been completed and copies of the Executive Summary were included in the agenda packet. Complete studies are now available for those who would like to have one.

8. Call to the Public

There were no requests to speak.

9. Announcements

Ms. Kratz announced that Mary Lyn Kasunic and Ginny Hildbrand were recipients of regional excellence and distinguished service awards at the MAG Desert Peaks Award dinner held on June 23, 1999.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.